

Ex-Prisoners Give President Invasion Flag

Kennedy Pledges Banner Will Fly Over Free Cuba

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MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 28.—President Kennedy promised Cuban freedom fighters today that their Bay of Pigs battle flag will fly in "a free Cuba."

The President received — as custodian—the flag of Brigade 2506 from officers of that band of stout-hearted Cubans who met disaster at the Bay of Pigs 20 months ago. The presentation was made in an emotion-packed ceremony in Miami's huge Orange Bowl.

"I can assure," he asserted, "that this flag will be returned to this brigade in a free Cuba."

Ex-Prisoners Applaud

Thunderous applause almost drowned the President's words.

It came from the Bay of Pigs invasion brigade survivors, including all the able-bodied of the 1,113 released from Castro prisons just before Christmas, and a crowd that grew to about 40,000 in the stands.

At another point, the President declared:

"I assure you that it is the strongest wish of the people of this country and of this hemisphere that Cuba shall one day be free again."

When it is free, he added, Brigade 2506 will "deserve to march at the head of the free column."

Mrs. Kennedy Speaks

Mrs. Kennedy thrilled the freedom fighters lined up on the field and their relatives and friends sitting in the stands by addressing them in their native Spanish. She told them she was "glad to be here among the bravest men in the world."

She added that she was happy her son had met the brigade officers when they visited the Kennedys at Palm Beach Thursday afternoon and said she hopes that "he will some day be one-half as brave as they are."

The President and Mrs. Kennedy flew here by helicopter from Palm Beach to dramatize his personal interest in the Bay of Pigs invasion survivors and in their dream of going back another day to liberate their homeland.

He made numerous references throughout a brief speech to eventual liberation of Cuba—each time to thunderous cheers.

Reviews Brigade

The President spent about 20 minutes inspecting the brigade before he went to a raised stand near midfield and received the brigade flag from Ernesto Oliva, who was second in command at the Bay of Pigs and is one of those freed just a few days ago from Castro captivity.

"I want to express my great appreciation to the brigade for making the United States the custodian of this flag," the President said, going on to pledge its return in a free Havana.

Impressed by the men he had seen as he inspected the brigade, Mr. Kennedy mentioned that he had talked to one Cuban fighter who is 57 years old, another 59 and another 61.

"I always had the impression that the brigade was made up mostly of young men," he remarked. He described the older fighters as representing "the spirit of the Cuban revolution in its best sense."

Recalls Spanish Rule

Recalling that most of the brigade had just come from behind prison walls, the President said they had left behind in Cuba more than 6 million persons "who are also in a very real sense in a prison."

He charged that, as Cuba once was under Spanish rule before the Spanish-American War, the island again is "controlled by a foreign monarch."

He described the freedom fighters' brigade as "the point of the spear, the arrow's head" and urged its members and other Cuban exiles to submerge any momentary differences and work together "to the united end that Cuba is free."

Sees Free Spirits

The President told the freedom fighters that their conduct and valor at the Bay of Pigs and throughout their imprisonment "are proof that, although Castro and his fellow-dictators may rule nations, they do not rule people; that they may imprison bodies, but they cannot imprison spirits. By helping win their freedom from Cuban prisons, Mr. Ken-

has been given the opportunity to demonstrate once again that all men who fight for freedom are our brothers and shall be until your country and others are free."

Greeted by Mayor

The crowd cheered almost constantly during the 20-minute inspection of the brigade by the President. As he walked back to the stand in midfield, shouts of "Guerra, Guerra" ("War, War")—could be heard ringing through the applause.

Mayor Robert King High of Miami greeted the brigade in Spanish, and the Brigade Commander Jose Perez San Roman spoke in Spanish before the President gave his address.

Immediately after the ceremony, the President and Mrs. Kennedy flew by helicopter back to Palm Beach to resume their holiday activities there.

Half an hour before the President's arrival, more than 20,000 persons—by far the most of them Cubans—nearly filled the lower section of the south stand in the huge Orange Bowl Stadium. This was the shady side. Only policemen posted at each exit could be seen in the north stands facing the sun.

The bright sun was driving the temperature up toward predicted high of 80.

Brown-uniformed Miami policemen, standing just an arm's length apart, lined the grass-covered field from end to end, facing the crowded south stand in a line about five feet off. Their heads kept turning from side to side as they watched keenly for any signs of Castro sympathizers who might try to sabotage the ceremony.

During last night, uniformed officers accompanied by police dogs patrolled the stadium. Miami Public Safety Director D. D. Pomerleau said the Secret Service, charged with protection of the President, was in complete command of the police operation.

"We're just working for them during this operation," he said. As the time heard for the President's appearance, crowds began filling some of the bleacher seats at the eastern end of the stadium.

Several tiers of seats in the east bleachers were filled by Cubans in American Army uniform—the refugees taken in by the United States Army as an American unit.

Cheers and applause boomed out from the stands as the battle-stained flag of Invasion Brigade 2506 appeared on the field and the survivors who

count of themselves in the presently unlikely event of Soviet aggression.

Million research

discovery of "simple indices enabling one to anticipate by four or five days the precise time of ovulation would be of inestimable value to those individuals" who wish to use the rhythm method.

Dearth of Ideas

Dr. Kennedy commented that "the difficulty here is that there are no good ideas on how to do it. The sums that have been suggested for a crash program couldn't possibly be spent intelligently because of the dearth of sound scientific applications." He held out hope, however, that "progress in other areas of research is likely in time to provide clues" for improvements in the effectiveness of the rhythm method.

The report described as safe and "highly effective" the traditional methods of contraception, but it raised some warning flags about two newer techniques.

Birth control pills, now on the market and other "systemic" compounds under development "may have influences on cells throughout the reproductive system and in other organs," the report said. "Much basic information, which may or may not be relevant to fertility control, remains to be discovered about